

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1, 4 and 9 have been amended. New claims 12-15 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-15 are pending.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 27, 2005.

35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, refers to a phrase found in claim 8, which has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emens et al, U.S. Patent 6,745,178 (Emens), in view of McGee III, et al, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0104088 (McGee). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emens and McGee in view of Wang et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,058,428 (Wang); and claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emens and McGee in view of Yoneda, U.S. Patent No. 6,002,832. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

According to the present invention, first information to identify a displayed image and second information including object information indicated from the displayed image are sent to a server on a computer network. The displayed image is concerned with content of interest rendered by media, for example the channel number of a television program. The second information, including object information, can include area information indicated from the displayed image by using a pointing device, for example, as set forth in new claim 15. Communication messages between the first and second terminals

are enabled on the basis of the first and second information. Accordingly, it is possible to exchange messages such as on-line chat between users having common interests concerning the content rendered by media. Such communication of messages between users is enabled without requiring the input of key words.

Emens discloses first and second user terminals that transmit first and second query statements to a server 114. Then, the server 114 computes a measure of similarity of the first and second queries. In this way, Emens is able to identify multiple users that share a common interest and automatically introduce users with similar interests. See Col. 2, lines 21-39 and Col. 3, lines 63-67 of the reference.

Emens does not disclose or suggest the first and second information of the type claimed by Applicants according to the present invention. Rather, key words need to be input by the users in Emens method. See Col. 5, lines 17-23. Accordingly, Emens does not suggest the transmitting of first and second information to a server in a computer network and the communication of messages between first and second terminals based on the first and second information, as in the present

invention, which overcomes the need to input key words in the exchanging of messages, such as in on-line chat.

McGee discloses using key words for searching image and video segments as well as audio segments when searching for and locating desired TV program. However, McGee does not disclose or teach the transmitting of first and second information to a server in a computer network and the communication of messages between first and second terminals based on the first and second information, as in the present invention.

According to the present invention, the information that is transmitted includes identification of a displayed image and the object indicated from the displayed image. As mentioned in paragraph 0039 of McGee, video or image information is transmitted, however, this information is not object information and is therefore not equivalent to the information that is sent in the present invention claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, the combination of Emens and McGee does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination of the invention, and therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-9 should be withdrawn.

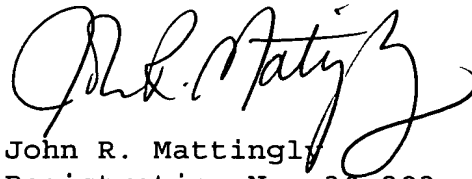
Wang is relied upon for disclosing the transferring of images on a network where thumbnail images are generated and the image is stored on a file storage device. Yoneda is relied upon for disclosing an invention for recording and reproducing data where time shifting is used to record and reproduce videos. Neither Wang nor Yoneda is sufficient when combined with Emens and McGee to render the invention of claims 10 and 11 obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and accordingly, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn.

New claims 12-15 are dependent claims that set forth additional limitations that are not disclosed or suggested by the art of record. Accordingly each of these claims should be allowed at least for depending from an allowable base claim and further for being patentable over the art of record.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", written in a cursive style.

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